

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 16-19, 21, 28-31 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly unpatentable over Koke et al. in view of Perez-Perez et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 71 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Koke et al. in view of Perez-Perez et al. as applied to claims 16-19, 21, 28-31 and 39 above, and further in view of Rosenberg and Sofer et al.

In response, applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. Nonetheless, and solely to expedite the issuance of this application, applicants have hereinabove amended claim 16 so as to have the claimed vector contain "a plurality of transcription cassettes". Therefore claim 16 as amended contains all the limitations of allowed claim 1 (as amended in an Amendment submitted on November 5, 1999) in related U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/060,765. Since claims 17-19, 21, 28-31, 39, 71 and 74 are dependent on amended claim 16, they should be allowed as well. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If there are any issues or amendments the Examiner wishes to discuss, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 5, 2000:

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October 5, 2000

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Respectfully submitted,

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